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RAMSEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
UPON THE
SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT
DURING THE YEAR 1963.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

*With the Compliments
of the
District Medical Officer of Health.*

Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough.

Tel: Peterborough 68010

R A M S E Y U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

AS AT 31.12.63.

Chairman : C.W. Green.

R. Bojdys. E. Bridgestock. H.A. Darling. A.S. Cross.

H.W. Haddon. R.L. McMillan. W. Mansfield. A.H. Warde.

A.J. Robinson. E.H.C. Jones.

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health

P.V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.F.H.

Public Health Inspector

HAROLD G. BELL, M.A.P.H.I.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December 1963.

The District is almost entirely devoted to agriculture, the town acting as a centre for the outlying areas, the chief of these being Ramsey St. Mary's, Mereside, Forty Foot and the Heights. The agricultural land consists largely of Fens, which were reclaimed several hundred years ago. It is extremely flat and is drained by dykes, there being several pumping stations in the area.

The Registrar General estimated a mid-year population of 5,730 a gain during the year of 30 persons.

There were 105 live births, giving a birth rate of 18.3 per thousand which closely follows the national rate.

There were 70 deaths during the year, giving a death rate of 12.2 per thousand, being exactly the national rate. This rate must however be multiplied by a comparability factor of 1.1 and becomes 13.4 before it can be compared to the national rate.

In the Spring months there was an outbreak of Para-typhoid Fever in the County, and in connection with this there was one case in Ramsey. The outbreak was probably associated with imported Chinese egg white, which was used commercially for making cakes. In order to prevent this recurring liquid egg now has to be pasteurised at the port of entry into this Country.

Forty eight cases of Measles were notified during the year, but apart from this there was little infectious disease in the District.

The results of immunisation against Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis are most gratifying. Diphtheria has been practically eliminated, and Poliomyelitis substantially reduced all over the Country. It is most essential however that immunisation against these diseases should be relentlessly continued, since they could easily return. Triple immunisation against Diphtheria Whooping Cough and Tetanus, and immunisation against Poliomyelitis are available at the County Child Welfare Clinic or from the patient's own doctor.

Good progress was made during the year in the vacation and subsequent demolition of unfit property. It is noteworthy that 52 properties were vacated during the year, and 58 new houses were completed in the town area. It will only be a few more years, if present progress continues, before the town centre is transformed, when compared with its condition 5 years ago. We have at last seen the end of Wood Lane Camp, which was a most unsatisfactory sub-standard housing area, and a worry for many years.

This year did also finally see the end of night soil collections in the town area, and a scheme to sewer the outlying villages is in progress. It is to be hoped that this can be pressed forward with no delays. Whilst this is being done it is necessary to remember too the groups of Council Houses which will lie outside the sewerage schemes, and for which something must be provided.

Meat inspection has increased this year out of all proportion to its increase in former years. Previously 100% inspection had not always been maintained, but it was maintained after 1st Feb. 1963. By far the greatest number of animals killed are pigs, and the number of these animals inspected during the past five years was 3,023; 3,085; 3,636; 10,293; 9,591 but in 1963 it was 17,728. This work absorbs a considerable proportion of the Public Health Inspector's time, and unfortunately a fair amount of it has to be done outside office hours and at week-ends. In the future something will probably be done nationally to regulate the hours of slaughtering, but in the meantime consideration must be given to suitable means of obtaining assistance for the Public Health Inspector.

In concluding, I wish to thank the Members of the Council, and their Officers and Staff for their help given to me during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

[illegible]

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Rate per 1,000 population	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	...							4.8
Still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...							27.8
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Infant Mortality Rates								
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...							28.6
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.5
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)								
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...							Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.2

Deaths from Cancer (total)	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	4
Coronary disease angina	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	11
Total Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	70

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales

	Per 1000 Population				Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 total Births.
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Ramsey U.D.	18.3	18.1	12.2	13.4	28.6	27.8
England & Wales	-	18.2	-	12.2	20.9	17.3

Comparability Factor Births .99

Comparability Factor Deaths 1.10

The comparability factors are figures by which the crude birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country. The Registrar General calculates the factors from the information available to him concerning amongst other things the age and sex structure of the population.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15 - 25	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>					<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	-	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	3	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	6	1	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	7	4	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	6	2	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	2	1	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	2	6	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	-	1	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	5	6
24.	Bronchitis...	...	...	...	4	1	5
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-	2	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	2	2	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	-	-	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	-	2
36.	Homicide and operations of War	...	...	...	-	-	-
					40	30	70

Table showing Infant Deaths and the Mortality Rate over Six Years

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Actual Number of Deaths.	2	4	2	3	3	3
Rates all infants per 1,000 Live Births.	19.8	36.7	16.1	28.9	28.9	28.6

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1963.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths.
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	48	1	3	3	3	3	34	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jaundice	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Para-typhoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

Philip V. Cant.

Medical Officer of Health.

New Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground.

Phone : Peterborough 68010.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1963.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

Housing :

Informal action secured the abatement of nuisances and in no case was the issue of a statutory notice necessary.

A first five year slum clearance programme, involving some 120 houses was approved by the Council. During the year a start was made in eradicating these sub-standard dwellings, 37 houses were closed and 106 persons rehoused. 19 cottages were demolished during the year.

The use of Wood Lane Camp for temporary housing was discontinued and the 15 huts previously occupied by Council tenants were vacated.

The Council can be justifiably proud of their efforts to deal with the slum clearance problem. A total of 52 sub-standard dwellings were vacated during the year.

There is no known statutory overcrowding, although there are cases where families are living in overcrowded conditions.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health & Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	156
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	317
Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	63
Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	2

Action under Statutory Powers :

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Number of houses demolished by agreement	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

New Housing :

There were 161 active applicants on the list for Council Houses at the end of the year, 76 families having been found accommodation. The Council completed two housing estates during the year, providing 58 units of accommodation. The Council have purchased land for more housing development and plans are to be prepared for a further 20 units.

There were 29 houses erected by private enterprise.

Improvement Grants :

The Council approved 3 applications for discretionary improvement grants and 8 applications for standard grants.

Work of improvement on 12 houses was carried out.

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

Nuisances :

Abated as a result of informal action 18

Analysis of complaints received :-

Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overflowing Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Inspections and Visits :

Housing Waiting List	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	304
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	612
Food & Drugs Act	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Food Hygiene Regulations		...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128
Factory Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Petrol Storage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Sewerage & drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
								<hr/> 1,523 <hr/>

Closets :

Number of houses at the end of the year with W.C's	...	...	1,592
Number of houses at the end of the year with Pail Closets	...		347
Number of houses at the end of the year with Privy Vaults	...		NIL
Number of W.C's constructed during the year for new houses	...		87
Number of W.C's constructed during the year for old property			18

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :

The 28 Pail Closets still being collected in the town were converted or the premises vacated. The night soil contract for the town area was terminated on the 22nd June, 1963.

34 new drainage systems were installed and tested during the year, 9 alterations to existing systems were also tested.

The Council give a free cesspool/septic tank emptying service where necessary, 121 cesspools/septic tanks being emptied this year.

There are still 347 Pail Closets in the outlying areas, which are emptied weekly by a contractor.

A scheme to sewer the four outlying villages of Ramsey Heights, Ramsey St. Marys, Mereside and Forty Foot Bridge is being prepared for submission to the Ministry. There are, however, four or five groups of council houses outside the proposed sewerage scheme that have no waste or soil water drainage facilities. It is now time that the Council seriously considered providing some facilities for these dwellings.

Water Supply :

The water undertaking was taken over by the Cambridge Water Company on the 1st April 1963. The 8" main to supply the new water tower was connected up to the supply in the summer and the pressure improved. The new water tower came into operation in the late summer and there were no shortages of water during the year.

Water samples are taken periodically and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Peterborough. 15 samples were taken during the year and only one sample was below standard.

The water contains less than 0.2 parts per million of fluorine.

There are 12 houses without a mains water supply and most of these are in the Council's five year slum clearance programme.

Swimming Baths :

There is an outdoor swimming pool at the Secondary Modern School and an indoor learners' pool at the Town C.P. School. The Secondary Modern School Pool has continuous filtration and chlorination, which is working fairly satisfactorily. The learners' pool is emptied and refilled weekly and during the week the water is chlorinated manually. Four samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, three were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample was taken from the learners' pool and it is hoped to have a continuous filtration and chlorination plant installed for next season.

Meat and Food Inspection :

The privately owned slaughterhouse is operating satisfactorily, although the hours of slaughtering necessitate a considerable amount of evening and weekend work.

The main slaughtering and hanging hall floor was re-surfaced with a hard impervious, non-slip tile, with a central metal covered drainage channel. A four chamber settlement tank was also installed to the drainage system to trap the fat, grease and pig hair. It is hoped that this will enable better results to be obtained from the Council's sewage works.

Since February 1st 1963, 100% meat inspection has been carried out, although not completely in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963. Relief inspectors from St. Ives R.D.C. carry out the meat inspection when I am off work ill or on holiday.

The following table shows the results of the meat inspection service:-

Number of slaughterhouses on register	...	...	...	...	1
Number of visits for meat inspection	...	...	...	...	612

Carcases inspected and condemned :

			<u>Cattle</u> <u>excluding cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep</u> <u>& Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number inspected	...	...	229	15	88	565	17,728
All diseases except Tuberculosis :-							
Whole carcasses condemned	...		-	1	-	-	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...		21	3	-	2	1,042
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	9.17	26.67	-	0.35	5.92
Tuberculosis only :-							
Whole carcasses condemned	...		-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...		-	-	-	-	185
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis	...	...	-	-	-	-	1.04

(Carcases inspected and condemned - continued)

Total weight of carcase meat condemned	...	...	...	...	1027 lbs.
Total estimated weight of offal condemned	...	...	...	...	2858 lbs.
Total weight of other food condemned	...	...	...	...	102 lbs.

One case of cysticercosis was found. The infected head was condemned and the remainder of the carcase refrigerated for 21 days.

Food Premises :

- (i) The number of food premises in the area by type of business are as follows :-

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Grocers & General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cafes, Restaurants, Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
School Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
							<hr/> 55 <hr/>

- (ii) Number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 26
- (iii) Number of inspections of registered food premises ... 32
- (iv) There has not been a food hygiene education course during the year. Proprietors are aware of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations and they have all been circulated with a synopsis of the regulations. All food premises were inspected during the year and the requirements needed to comply with the regulations notified to the shopkeeper. The following works were completed following informal action :-

Premises provided with piped cold water supply	...	...	1
Premises provided with hot running water supply	...	...	4
Premises provided with food protection screens	...	...	2
Premises provided with additional sanitary accommodation	...	...	4
Premises provided with "Now Wash Your Hands" notices	...	...	11
Premises provided with wash hand basins	...	...	2
Premises provided with additional dustbins	...	...	4
Premises repaired (walls, floors, ceilings etc)	...	...	5
Premises redecorated	...	...	9

(Food Premises - continued)

- (v) Condemned food is buried at the tip.
- (vi) Usually small quantities of food are examined, and the lot condemned.
- (vii) There are no Ice Cream manufacturers in the area, it is all pre-packed.
- (viii) There have been no prosecutions under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year.

Factories Act 1937 :

Total number of factories (including bakehouses) ...	...	...	21
Number of visits during the year ...	...	...	21
Number of defects remedied ...	...	...	-

Refuse Collection :

Refuse is collected by direct labour and disposal is by controlled tipping at Brick Kilns Farm. A weekly service is provided in the town area and a fortnightly kerbside collection for the outlying areas. The service is carried out by two loader/drivers and one tipman. The service became difficult to maintain towards the end of the year due to extra houses being built and the seasonal fluctuation in weight of the refuse. An additional loader is to be employed to enable the work to be kept up to date.

Moveable Dwellings :

There are 7 single van sites and one 12 van site licenced in the district. 9 sites were cleared during the year, 7 voluntarily and 2 after informal action.

Rodent Control :

A rodent control service is provided for private and business premises in the area under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Farm premises are also treated on request and the cost recovered on a time and materials basis.

The rodent operator carried out the following inspections and treatments :-

	<u>Properties</u> <u>Inspected.</u>	<u>Rat</u> <u>Infested.</u>	<u>Mice</u> <u>Infested.</u>	<u>Treated.</u>
Houses ...	118	33	5	38
Business premises ...	11	1	1	2
Agricultural premises ..	60	9	8	17
Local Authority ..	11	5	2	7
Totals	200	48	16	64

(Rodent Control - continued)

Regular test baiting of the sewerage system is carried out, but only minor rat infestations were found and treated.

In addition, 10 houses were treated for ants, 19 houses for wasps nests, 1 house for bees nest and 1 house disinfested for fleas.

General :

The year has been one of steady progress in most fields of Public Health. A full inspection of all Food Premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations was carried out and shopkeepers were most co-operative in bringing their premises up to standard, few of the matters required on inspection remain to be cleared up and these are all in the hands of contractors. Meat inspection takes up a considerable amount of my time and Sunday work can be very trying for a single inspector.

Appreciation is expressed of the interest and support of the Chairman, C.W. Green, Esq., and Members of the Council, the guidance and advice of the Medical Officer of Health and the co-operation of the Council Staff.

HAROLD G. BELL.

Public Health Inspector.

